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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

January 16, 2015

John Spencer
Simplot Phosphate
9401 North Highway 191
Vernal, Utah 84078-7802

Subject: Cultural Resources Treatment Plan, Simplot Phosphates LLC, Vernal Phosphate Operation, M/047/0007, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has reviewed the proposed data recovery research design plan for cultural resource sites 42UN8049 and 42UN8053. These sites are likely to be disturbed under Simplot Phosphate's proposed expansion.

Ideally the sites would be avoided and no treatment would be necessary. If there is any uncertainty whether the sites would be disturbed, please delay treatment until shortly before disturbance is to occur but allowing adequate time to complete the work.

Considering the information available in the cultural resources inventory, the mitigation for site 42UN8049 should be modified. The plan should include a thorough surface review of lithic materials, a detailed inventory of any diagnostic artifacts that may be present, and selective shovel test probes to determine whether there is potential for subsurface features. Unless these test probes reveal subsurface materials, excavation of six- and forty-square meter plots and 20-meter trenches is unnecessary.

The design plan includes preparation of a professional quality report. Please indicate how this report will be made available, such as through a scientific journal, a booklet, or other means.

Please make these modifications and resubmit the plan to the Division. The Division will then forward the plan to the Division of State History for its concurrence.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please call me at 801-538-5261 if you have questions about this process.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker
Minerals Program Manager

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